

## CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS: Round 1

### The Research Fellowship Programme

1. CARA is a UK registered charity established in 1933 by Sir William Beveridge and other distinguished UK academics and figures of the day. It remains an organisation governed by academics on behalf of fellow academics at risk. In addition to its core UK grant programme, CARA facilitates a Network of 45 UK Universities<sup>1</sup> whose purpose is to promote and defend academic freedom and provide practical assistance. Since 2006 and the launch of a dedicated programme in support of Iraqi academics, UK University Network members have hosted both doctoral and post-doctoral placements, 'waiving' all associated fees.

2. The 3-year Research Fellowship Programme is one of a number of activities sitting within the wider 'Iraq Programme'. It aims **to enhance regional and Iraqi research and teaching capacities; to undertake and deliver innovative research outputs of immediate relevance to Iraq's future; to nurture lasting international research collaborations and reengage selected Iraqi academics in exile.**

3. The Programme was conceived as a fellowship scheme with funding to support core research teams of four (see 'Research Team Composition' under Application Guidance Notes).

4. **The Programme will fund up to 20 distinct pieces of research over the programme period, with awards for each of £10,000 to £40,000.** Funding will be made available primarily in the form of fellowships and should be viewed as either seed-corn to support a scoping/piloting study **or** as funding for smaller distinct pieces of research.

5. Kate Robertson (Programme Manager) is supported by a UK Steering Committee and Middle-East Regional Sub-Committee to advise and guide the programme and selection of proposals.

6. Research proposals will be selected over a maximum **5 bidding rounds**. The Selection Committee will adopt a flexible approach when reviewing applications received and will make selections on the basis of quality, feasibility, relevance to the priority needs of Iraq and the Iraqi people and to the aims of the programme. The selection committee may choose to obtain evaluations from independent experts and reserves the right to limit the total number of awards made, where it believes that this would meet the Programme aims more effectively.

**The Call** Outline proposals are invited for awards of **up to** £40,000 (total) that meet the aims of the programme. Proposals addressing **public health** and **education** issues are particularly welcome.

**Closing Date** The closing date for submissions is **midnight on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

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<sup>1</sup> Current Network membership: Bedfordshire, Birmingham, Birkbeck, Brighton, Cambridge, Central School of Speech & Drama, Chichester, Exeter, Essex, Goldsmiths, IoE, King's, Kent, St Andrews, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Glasgow Caledonian, Leeds Metropolitan, University of London, Lincoln, Liverpool, Liverpool Hope, LSBU, LSE, Manchester, Nottingham, Open University, Oxford, Oxford Brooks, Queen Mary, Reading, Roehampton, SOAS, Sunderland, Ulster, Herriot Watt, Strathclyde, UCL, UCLAN, UEL, UWE, Warwick, Wolverhampton, York.

## **Guidance Notes for Applicants: CARA Research Fellowship Programme (Round 1)**

**1. Application Form** Please complete the Summary 'Application Form' in addition to providing an outline proposal of **a maximum of 6 pages (double spaced; minimum font size 11) and include a 1 page detailed budget**. The summary **Application Form** can be found on <http://www.academic-refugees.org/> under '**News & Forthcoming Events**', Research Fellowship Proposal 'Call for Applications'

The application should ideally be submitted in English. Where you believe this may prejudice the clarity of your submission then please submit in Arabic.

**2. Eligibility** Applications may be submitted by academics based at any higher education or other independent research institution, or previously allied to an Iraqi higher education or independent research institution, as long as they fit one of the prerequisite core research team profiles (see 4 below). The **English language skills** of core team members must be sufficient to be able to communicate with non-Arabic speakers involved in the programme.

**3. Submission** Application proposals should be submitted electronically to [amman.cara@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:amman.cara@lsbu.ac.uk), to be received on or before the closing date of **30 June 09**. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THAT ARRIVE AFTER MIDNIGHT ON THE CLOSING DATE.**

**4. Research Team Composition** To support the programme aims, a prerequisite is that core research teams combine an academic currently in post in a 'Western' university of repute or equivalent ('Principal Investigator')<sup>2</sup>, an Iraqi academic in post-2003 exile ('Senior Fellow') and two early to mid-career Iraqi lecturers and/or researchers currently in post in Iraq ('Junior Fellows'). **Applications are welcome from teams with existing experience of working together and from individual academics looking to develop new partnerships.** Proposals will be accepted where assistance might be needed to develop the prerequisite team composition, and, if selected for funding, will be deferred to a future round to enable a team to be built. **Please note under Section III of the Application Form where you will need support in developing the prerequisite team.**

**5. Project Management** The research proposal must demonstrate that the team has the necessary expertise, facilities and time to bring the proposed research to a successful conclusion, an issue of particular importance in respect of the Principal Investigator.

**6. Research Quality** Proposals will need to demonstrate appropriate frameworks and rigorous research methodologies capable of generating findings of clear value to their users and beneficiaries, and include a thorough review of the extant literature relating to the proposal field.

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<sup>2</sup> In keeping with the collaborative/support aims of the **CARA UK Universities Network**, applications would be welcome from Network university faculty members, a primary resource for CARA's UK/Iraqi academics 'Twinning' programme and from which UK-based academics will likely be drawn to achieve the prerequisite team composition where this is lacking.

**7. Research Design and Methods** The proposal must fully and clearly describe a research design and schedule appropriate for the achievement of the stated research objectives and include explicit **indicators and outcomes** as part of the research design.

**8. Relevance to Programme Aims and Priority Needs of Iraq** Proposals will need to indicate how they meet the Research Fellowship Programme aims (see above), and make a distinctive contribution to addressing key research challenges and the priority needs of Iraq and the Iraqi people.

**9. Value for Money** Proposals must represent value for money relative to the likely outcomes – ie. verify that the resources requested are both necessary and adequate for the effective progress of the research outlined.

**10. Dissemination** Proposals should include an outline of their target audience, a communication/knowledge transfer strategy and list known dissemination opportunities that might arise during or on completion of the research. CARA has a limited additional funds to support dissemination of research outputs.

**11. Capacity Building** Please note that selected proposal Senior and Junior Fellows will be required to participate in a **3-week induction/review/training period**, as part of the Research Fellowship Programme's capacity building aims, which will include review and refinement of methodologies, indicators, outputs, dissemination opportunities, progression of logistical preparations, and facilitate cross-fertilisation and international collaboration across the supported research teams. Principal Investigators will be expected to participate on key occasions. Some additional funding is available for the induction period. Wherever possible and appropriate – eg. proposals involving additional academic team members – non-core research team members will be included in the 3-week induction to expand the number of academics able to benefit from the capacity-building programme and increase the knowledge base and teaching and research capabilities within Iraq's higher education and research institutions.

**12. Supporting Documentation**

- CVs for core team members (max two pages per team member)
- Brief description of your institution and partner institution(s) involved
- Timeline of the research proposed (max single page)
- References for similar work undertaken with short summary (where applicable)
- Examples of comparable work (where applicable)

Please list in the summary Application form all documents attached to the proposal.